Spending in Health Sector

*489. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the highest spenders in health sector;

(b) if so, the share of public sector and the private sector, separately; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the share of public sector spending on health ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. CR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Health expenditure in the country as a percentage of GDP has been approximately 5.2. per cent, out of which 0.9 per cent is public expenditure. In terms of this index of expenditure, it cannot be considered very low in comparison to other countries. However, the per capita annual expenditure on health is approximately Rs. 800, out of which Rs. 160 is public expenditure. In terms of purchasing power, the overall per capita expenditure, particularly public expenditure, is low.

The Central Government has been making every effort to increase its contribution to the public expenditure. The year-wise Central Government plan expenditure has been as under :—

Central Government Plan Expenditure

(in Rs. Crore)

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (BE)
257225	3207.11	4099.14	427155	5780.00

The overall plan outlay in the health sector in the Ninth Five Year Plan has been 4.01 per cent of the total plan outlay, as compared to 3.24 per cent during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The resources for investment in the public sector are also being augmented by securing international funding from multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, particularly for the control programme relating to AIDS, Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness and Reproductive and Child Health Programme The State Health infrastructure is also being upgraded by securing international funding for that purpose.

Because of poor fiscal conditions, State Government expenditure as a percentage of the total budget, has been reducing.

Tribal Status to People Working in tea Gardens of Assam

*490. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister ofTRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Constitution to give tribal status to the workers of tea gardens in Assam as these people, who migrated from different States of the country, are regarded as tribal in their respective States; and

(b) if so, by when Government would bring the necessary legislation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the proposal to specify tea and ex-tea garden workers as Scheduled Tribes in the State of Assam has been processed as per modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Revision of charges for grant of ownership rights for shops in Delhi

*491. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the allottees of the Central Government markets in the Capital for revision of charges for the grant of ownership rights of their shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shopkeepers of 12 markets in respect of which a decision has been taken by the Government to confer ownership rights in August, 2000 by charging 100% premium of the cost of land, have represented that they may be charged 50 — 80% of land premium as in the case of shopkeepers who were conferred ownership rights by Government in 1989.

(c) The Government, after due consideration, have not accepted the request of the above shopkeepers.